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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The "Century" and William II.

We see the suggestion advanced, both here and abroad, that the suppression by the Century Magazine of the interview with the Emperor WILLIAM has been effected by reimbursing the Century company in the matter of the cost, a not inconsiderable sum. We think the idea is devoid of foundation. Mr. RICHARD WATSON GILDER and his associates are very unlikely to be moved by any such consideration. If they should be convinced that any good reason existed for withdrawing any article from publication they would not hesitate a moment in reaching their decision, and any notion of compensation could not be other than repugnant to them. The character of these gentlemen, as editors and publishers, should make such a suggestion impossible.

Warning From an Expert.

Under the title "New York City's Progress Toward Bankruptcy" Mr. EDGAR J. LEVY has sent to Senator MARTIN Saxe of the joint legislative committee to examine into the finances of this town a letter which concludes with this sentence:

"I know of no greater need of the hour than to arouse the people to a sense of the danger which threatens them; for at present many of those to whom we would naturally look for leadership in municipal economy seem dragged into folly by the blindness of socialism."

What is the danger that threatens the people? The budget for 1909 carries appropriations of \$156,500,000, or 10 per cent. more than the budget for 1908. If this ratio of increase is maintained for ten years—and there is nothing to indicate a reduction—the budget for 1919 will be \$370,000,000, necessitating a tax levy of \$224,000,000. Allowing that the city will then have a population of 6,000,000, this will represent a per capita tax of \$54, against \$26.25 this year. Yet Mr. LEVY points out that:

"It is almost literally true that no one speaks for the taxpayer. It is as if a class taxpayer representative were elected to the legislature. A small minority of the electorate—have no right, and rent payers—which means the community at large—have dreamed blissfully in a happy paradise that waste and extravagance amounted them not at all."

Mr. LEVY's prescription for the city is as old fashioned, so simple, so direct, that it will not be received with enthusiasm. He would actually have the town economize. A futile appeal, for economy hurts, and as long as the rent payer fancies he contributes nothing to the extravagant expenditures of the town he is going to advocate "generous appropriations" without a thought for the future.

An Argument to the Absurd.

The Hon. WYNDHAM R. MEREDITH of Richmond, Virginia, is in all respects a most attractive and delightful gentleman. He has what our French friends call "the air." He was born with the gift of courtesy and the instinct of hospitality and in all other ways is as eligible a person as one would encounter in a two days ride. When last summer Mr. MEREDITH presided over the Bur Association of Virginia meeting at Hot Springs and in a moment of wassail proclaimed the Hon. WILLIAM H. TAFT as the proper choice of the American people for President he represented the sentiment of his class with perfect accuracy. He was criticized by some, but even then only on the score of the proprieties, and the fervor with which the impulsive overtures were hailed was obscured by the academic murmurs of hesitation from the conventional. Upon that ground he was obviously a winner.

We do not so much yield to Mr. MEREDITH's pretensions in a more recent matter. He has just received a communication from the President, a distinction which few men of prominence have escaped. The President writes him, apparently on some sort of proposition, that he does not "believe there is a single individual of any consequence who seriously dreams of setting down Southern representation," and with this spur to eloquence Mr. MEREDITH burgeons into inter-laws. He is quoted as saying that:

"The most forcible of the stock arguments used by the reluctant Democrats in line for a weak South."

And then he proceeds to say a great deal more of quite equal intelligence and to a similar purport—his idea being to let the apprehensions of his Southern friends as regards certain overtures on the part of CRUMPACKER of Indiana and others looking to a reduction of the Congress forces of the South. The agitation, he says, is quieted for the time, and this on the authority of a letter from Mr. ROOSEVELT in his usual free and easy and irresponsible style.

What we do not understand is the fact that Mr. MEREDITH, a man of ability and good sense in most respects, should quote this specimen of Mr. ROOSEVELT's childish garrulity as a final argument, or for that matter any argument at all, in a controversy of importance. We may mention as a fact that the election laws of the Southern States have been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. The Mississippi, the South Carolina, the Virginia "clauses" have been subjected to the highest inquisition and formally sustained. The threats of KEIFER and CRUMPACKER, undertaken of course for cheap purposes, have been divested of all their substance. The laws stand and everybody knows it. Why then should Mr. MEREDITH write to his patron saint—as we suppose—and more especially why should a man of Mr. MEREDITH's consequence, and station parade THEODORE ROOSEVELT's swift reply as a settlement "for all time" of the emergency?

As it seems to us the whole thing is ridiculous. If the Southern election laws are assailable the proper attack upon them is through the courts. If they be constitutional, as the supreme tribunal has already declared, they do not need the indorsement of a Chief Magistrate who has already been discredited and who in any event has no more to do with legislation than with the solar system or the procession of the seasons.

Why does Mr. MEREDITH parade this cheap and tawdry fulmination? Nobody is deceived by it.

Victorien Sardou.

SARDOU has been called the "incarnation of the theatre," but that is not very kind to the theatre. He had the face of an actor; he lived with theatrical people; two actresses gave him his first clue to theatrical success; another actress procured him his definitive apotheosis; far more than any other dramatist he has ruled the European and American stage for the last thirty or forty years; if one takes into account not merely the number of his pieces but the variety of "genres" he successfully essayed, he was more fertile than any dramatist yet seen; he was by far the most abundant theatrical money getter of all ages; no playwright has ever been so widely international within the limits of his lifetime, and few writers have hitherto better illustrated the truism that those who write only for to-day will be forgotten to-morrow.

He was a journalist of the stage, one may say a yellow Thespian journalist. Sensitive to every wind that blew francs and cents, he was a weathercock among authors and performed the complete "gyro" of fruitful possibilities. There was no stage form which he did not touch, and none which he really adored. Invariably successful, he never succeeded for longer than an hour. A warning rather than an example from the point of view of pure art, he was the kind of warning many prefer to examples of the highest sort. He was a warning ornamented with green papers, a red buttonhole, castles and a limitless bank account. Yet he had in the end an extremely healthful influence on the contemporary stage; his mastery of theatrical tricks was so complete and beyond rivalry that he brought stage tricks into contempt. His relation to a more natural style of play was that of Mme. BLAISE to royalty:

"The king has often walked behind, when she has gone before."

LAVEDAN, DONNAY, CAPUS, the practitioners of the recent plotless, lifelike meander of drama, were the offspring of a Sardou thrice denied.

This may sound like malice, uncharitableness and "benefits forgot." SARDOU has entertained the theatrical audience of two continents as no other single writer has ever entertained it. He has presented successful plays in America—"L'Oncle Sam" and "Les Américains à l'Etranger"—before they were given in France; and has tickled the Russian groundlings with material that was lavished to Paris. He has delighted London audiences with a "Robespierre" written for IYING and ignored by the Théâtre Français. But these very foreign successes condemn him as a French genius, though not as a predatory capitalist. The hour of the international playwright had struck, and SARDOU heard the summons and obeyed it. It yielded him a castle at Marly, but not one leaf of the immortal bay. His name is inevitably linked with that of the genius of SARAH BERNHARDT—as the chief opportunity of SARAH'S degradation. He provided her with excellent situations in which to die, and in which she did die, as an actress loyal to the true interests of her art. There was a splendid stage setting in "Théodora," "Gismonda" and the rest, and no other splendor. SARDOU was not an incarnation of the theatre, truly so called, but of the theatrical poster.

The End of the South Dakota Divorce Mills.

A moral issue was submitted to the people of South Dakota last Tuesday when they were called upon to consider the new divorce law enacted on March 16, 1907, which provided for a year's residence by the applicant and trial in open court at a regular term. The petition for the referendum was signed by 5 per cent. of the qualified electors, as the code required. The petitioners must have regarded the old lax divorce law permitting constructive service, six months residence and dark closet proceedings as a good thing for South Dakota; and it was not astonishing that Sioux Falls, which notoriously profited by its divorce mill, was strongly represented. In default of the filing of such a petition the new law would have stood as enacted. Challenged by the petti-foggers and their parasites, it now has the sanction of the people, and the example set by South Dakota is likely to be followed in a spirit of self-reproach by other States which have not been in a position to cast a stone at her.

Causes for divorce are immorally numerous in several of the States; per-

haps unmorally would be the apt word to use, for some of the causes for which divorce is granted may be regarded as mere fictions prompting conspiracy between the parties to the suit and their lawyers to sever the marriage relation. Divorce reform aims to eliminate the flimsy pretext for separation and freedom, but as in those States where they are stamped with validity transient residence and secret hearings are allowed, the first step in divorce reform Court to prohibit such abuse of procedure. Publicity discourages applications to the courts for divorce on fictitious and merely frivolous grounds, and in a State that insists upon an adequate term of residence divorce colonies cannot be fostered.

The action of the people of South Dakota will make a stir in every State of the Union that is cursed by bad divorce laws and reformers will be emboldened to renew their attack upon the evil in the Legislatures.

Brazil's Naval and Military Armaments.

Some interesting information concerning the naval and military programmes of the Brazilian Government is contributed by Senhor D. A. RIBEIRO to a Rio de Janeiro periodical. He makes it very clear that Brazil has no intention of selling to a foreign Power the three Dreadnoughts now building for her in England, but means to keep them for her own purposes. What those purposes are Senhor RIBEIRO does not distinctly say, but we are left to infer that what Brazil has in view is the hegemony of South America.

Undoubtedly the first place among Latin American republics belongs to Brazil on the score of her area, which exceeds 3,200,000 square miles and is nearly three times larger than that of the Argentine Republic, the next most extensive of the Latin American commonwealths. Brazil may fairly claim preponderance also on the score of population if Senhor RIBEIRO is justified in estimating her present population at 22,000,000, a figure almost as high as that reached by the United States in 1880. Her revenue in 1902 exceeded \$137,000,000, while she spent less than \$100,000,000. These figures may be compared with Argentina's \$63,000,000 and Mexico's \$29,000,000, nearly the whole of which was expended in each case. In 1902 Brazil's national debt was \$510,000,000, against Argentina's \$470,000,000, but the interest and other annual charges imposed upon the former country fell short of \$24,000,000, which was less by \$11,000,000 than what the latter had to support.

We have pointed out that in 1902 Brazil had an annual surplus of nearly \$40,000,000. Obviously she was even then qualified from a financial viewpoint to begin the construction of a considerable navy. Senhor RIBEIRO tells us however, that it is unnecessary to touch that surplus, because, assuming that there are 6,000,000 taxpayers, the Rio de Janeiro Government could provide itself with \$45,000,000 by levying an average annual tax of \$1.50 for five years. The sum would suffice to construct several first class battleships besides the auxiliary vessels needed to constitute an efficient navy. We learn from Senhor RIBEIRO the programme of naval construction which is in process of execution at the present time. It comprehends the three Dreadnoughts, each of 19,000 tons, which are building in England at a cost of \$9,000,000 apiece; three express cruisers of 3,500 tons each, at a cost of \$1,350,000 apiece; eighteen destroyers of 600 tons, costing \$325,000 each, and one mine layer of 3,000 tons, which will cost \$750,000, together with a few submarines and small torpedo craft. The total tonnage will be 80,000 and the aggregate cost \$39,500,000.

The inference to be drawn from these figures is that Brazil is aiming at the seventh place among naval Powers, thus taking precedence of Russia and of Austria-Hungary. Of those Brazilians who have opposed the programme on the score of the burden which it will impose upon the country Senhor RIBEIRO asks what there is to complain of if a few millions of its inhabitants are called upon to contribute the trifling sum of \$7.50 in the course of five years. The reply would seem more conclusive if one could leave out of view the simultaneous expenditure which is to be made by Brazil upon her army. Some years ago the total strength of Brazil's active or peace army was less than 26,000 and her aggregate war strength was only 100,000. At that time Argentina's peace strength fell short of 10,000, but its war strength was about 73,000. It follows that the two countries would then have entered into conflict upon a nearly equal footing. That will soon cease to be the case. The Brazilian War Minister has announced that within a decade Brazil will have nearly half a million men on a war footing, and Senhor RIBEIRO thinks that she ought to have a million trained and prepared for warlike operations.

It is hard to resist the conclusion that Brazil's naval and military armaments have for their ultimate object the attainment of leadership and control in Latin America.

Utilizing Waste Lands.

It is a matter of the keenest regret to many forehanded and thrifty citizens that much land in the heart of New York city is now devoted to non-revenue producing purposes and utilized merely for playgrounds and beauty spots. Not a real estate boomer in the town fails to understand the possibilities of Central Park for residential and business purposes and to long for an opportunity to put it up into lots, to be offered for sale on easy terms to persons anxious to own their own homes.

As this seems definitely beyond accomplishment, various other plans for the diversion of park lands from their true purpose are constantly appealing for popular favor. One of the latest of these is a scheme for the establishment of a municipal dairy, with the park lands as pastures and an appropriately decorated sales place as a fitting and appropriate addition to the city's art treasures.

It would be of course a "model dairy," to which the residents of Ninth avenue, of Fifth avenue, of East Houston street and of Greenwich Village would resort for instruction and information as to the details of cow culture, an occupation essential in a community largely given over, as New York is, to agricultural pursuits.

It is not to be supposed that such a proposal will be without support. Nor would the suggestion that a model boiler factory or a model ginsewing farm or a model chemical laboratory be set up in the park be destitute of friends.

Yet the public generally understands what parks are for and resents their use for other purposes, and knows that one of the best things that can be done to Central Park is to leave it alone and compel others to do the same.

The Atlantic Pilot Chart for November shows that last month four great fields of gulf weed were afloat in the Gulf of Mexico, one off the north coast of Yucatan, one near the Mississippi delta, another off west Florida, and the fourth in our own little counterpart of the Sargasso Sea, identified only two years ago as similar to the Sargasso and now called the Central Sea. The origin of this weed was unknown until Dr. KÜHNKE made his studies and collected conclusive evidence about twenty years ago. He found that every island and mainland shore of the Caribbean is fringed with these marine plants, which are torn away by storms and borne on currents into the Gulf of Mexico. They form into windrows and fields that are finally broken up, and the millions of green weeds drift in trailing lines out into the ocean and reach their haven in the Sargasso, where they float till they decay and sink and are replaced by fresh supplies.

So it was left all a recent day to solve the mystery of the Sargasso which COLUMBUS discovered in 1492, when he saw "many seas of grass thick and very green," here and there a small white flower, and "the sea appeared to be covered with it." Sailors' yarns about the Sargasso, long current, are now completely discredited. The weed does not grow on the sea floor and by breaking from its stalk reach the surface. It does not multiply in the sea by scions from the parent plant. It is never so thickly massed as to retard the progress of vessels. Such legends have been replaced by fact. The fields of weed now reported in the Gulf will soon be moved to the ocean, and like all the bottom and jettison within reach of the influence of the circular motion of waters that forms the Sargasso Sea they will be attracted to it and imprisoned in the whirl till they sink.

AGAINST THE TWANG.

Wrong Methods of Teaching Are Producing an Earless Age.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—In "In Defense of the Twang," inspires me to write a few words against all possessors of the expiring habit. I have inquiringly been asked to answer, "Why 'I did not know it and what is the cause?" They have ears and hear not. The training of the ear is one of the most neglected duties. The sensitiveness of the ear drum dying out in this foolish age? It is the duty of every parent and every teacher to make the child aware of the quality of tone in which it speaks. Especially should every teacher lay stress on the importance of the pupil's speaking on the vowels of words and not hanging on the consonants of words, this would help much toward the destruction of the nasal habit, which is also one of the causes of so much of the "twang" which is being destroyed in this country. We have singing teachers who develop nasal resonances at the expense of the ear. We have singing teachers who develop nasal resonances at the expense of the ear. We have singing teachers who develop nasal resonances at the expense of the ear.

Breakfast as a Social Function.

THE CUSTOMARY breakfast at the opening of the legal term by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords to about 200 guests is an institution which goes back to the days of the veritable breakfast of the House of Lords. It has been held in the House of Lords, but at an earlier date it was given in the Lord Chancellor's residence. It is a relic of the times when breakfast was a great social function.

Many other breakfasts have what may be termed the breakfast habit. Thus Mr. Gladstone was a regular giver of breakfasts and a constant attendant at them when given by others. Of late years, however, the breakfast has fallen into disrepute as a social function, except at the universities, where young men are still found who are capable of consuming three of four courses of the elaborate breakfast of the House of Lords. Recently an attempt has been made to revive the breakfast. The King in 1907 at Newmarket issued several invitations to breakfast parties. To our ancestors the meal was a solid one, of many dishes of meat, qualified by sack possets or small beer, the ancient equivalent of soda water. Tea was not known, and coffee was not known in the medieval analogue of the modern museum.

An Illinois Decision.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—I noticed with some concern your statement in today's issue that the Illinois Supreme Court had decided that the State's authority to impose the requirement of vaccination upon school children is now firmly established throughout the United States, not only in Illinois, but in every State by numerous decisions in the courts of last resort.

As the superintending vaccination is like the poison of the inoculation of vaccine it is necessary to call the attention of the public to the fact that the Illinois decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois of a few months ago in which it was held that the public school system shall not be misused for the purpose of vaccination is a healthy child is not a menace or danger to his fellows, and especially, "to use the leverage of coercion or intimidation, with parental love as a fulcrum, and thus force parents to do certain things against their conscience, in a purely ethical not equitable as a legal resort it is unjustifiable."

I believe the decision was based on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, that cruel and unusual punishment shall not be inflicted.

JOHN I. RIGGALL.

SCRANTON, Pa., November 8.

Reforming Boston's Table Manners.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir, Reminding the majority of your correspondents agree with me that something should be done to abate the nuisance of Boston's table manners. My sympathy goes out to "A Sufferer," who complains of New York's breach while at the festive Boston. Boston is bad in spots: in Manhattan you are likely to meet Mr. Hog where the vandas are choicest and the table linen immaculate.

"G. D. Lord" spots the table by his "comparatively harmless practice of eating peas with a knife." Good Lord! Think how much peas there is before us when one dies among imported palms, quaffs imported bubbly and is superbly out of it. Good Lord! Think how much peas there is before us when one dies among imported palms, quaffs imported bubbly and is superbly out of it. Good Lord! Think how much peas there is before us when one dies among imported palms, quaffs imported bubbly and is superbly out of it.

"ENFORCEMENT OF LAW."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Is it not possible, now that election campaigns are in progress, for politicians on both sides to stop stupid shrieking for enforcement of law?

Such shrieking dishonors our country and hinders the prosperity that all of us desire to promote. One realizes that who reads current expressions of foreign opinion. It is very reasonable and natural for European investors of loanable capital to draw back from sending it to us lawless a land.

The crying for enforcement of law began a dozen years ago out of emotions that were purely partisan. Republican politicians started it in order to prejudice the Cleveland Administration for assumed commerce and the anti-trust laws in face of the Supreme Court decision that production and manufacture within a State are not interstate commerce which Congress can regulate. That decision upon the theories of the nationalists, who were then compelled to realize that the courts could not enforce laws forbidden by the Constitution. The shrieking went on nevertheless.

After McKinley had entered the White House in 1897 Bryan and Democrats took up the Republican cry and denounced the Republican Administration for neglect of duty because violators of these two laws were not put in prison. In the Presidential campaign of 1900 Bryan was even an effort to make the election turn on the number of suits begun during Cleveland's last and McKinley's first term.

In 1903 it dawned upon the House of Representatives that the fault, if any, was not in either President, but in the laws which did not enable Federal prosecuting officers to lay before juries and Judges occult facts regarding railway discriminations, rebates and agreements for suppressing competition in interstate commerce. Congress about that time also discovered that railways were by means of free transportation giving rebates to President Roosevelt as well as to "representatives of predatory wealth." An appropriation was made to pay out of the treasury for his transportation and thus make unnecessary an enforcement against him of the rebate law.

Finally the House asked Attorney-General Knox for a sketch of needed new laws to supplement the legislation of 1887 and 1890. The new laws he proposed quickly went into the statute book and a half million appropriation for Government ferrets, detectives and Assistant Attorney-Generals. Then the Department of Justice could and did begin under Knox successful prosecutions, but President Roosevelt straightway assumed the credit thereof as if he were "the whole outfit"—prosecutor, court and jury. Before long Bryan began, nevertheless, to taunt the President with failure to imprison malefactors, and he wrote to Congress a defence that juries would not convict.

Then came the partisan shrieking on every hand, which is yet heard, for enforcement of law.

The latest phase of it has come of Roosevelt's endeavor to persuade the country that only the President enforces laws, whereas Congress has ordained that the Attorney-General and District Attorneys shall present to Grand Juries and courts proofs of violated statutes, and on them is the responsibility of trial and judgment. The President is required, it is true, to take care that prosecuting officers are diligent. He has the power of pardon, but in no other way can he enforce punitive laws than through courts and juries. He cannot usurp their functions.

The presumption is in our country that all official work is rightly done and that when ascertained facts show a violation of law the violators are brought to trial. There is reason to hope that before very long the Supreme Court will declare with precision the constitutional power that Congress has over commerce. The under President Taft will not Roosevelt and Bryan cease to lead wild shrieking either in the *Commoner* or the *Outlook* for enforcement of law? C.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., November 9.

ANTIQUITY RUGS BY WASHING.

Solution Used to Impart Soft Appearance—Effects on the Warp.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The United States buys annually many thousands of dollars worth of what are known to the profession as "washed rugs." Bright colored Oriental rugs, sometimes washed with a solution of chlorine of lime, a treatment which partly bleaches the colors and imparts a soft appearance to the rug. This chemical treatment is a process of washing which produces the effect of a peculiar sheen to the surface, which is pointed out by the unscrupulous dealer as a proof of superior quality. The fact is that the process of washing as described invariably weakens and in some instances destroys the materials of the rug.

The progressive effect of the chemicals on the materials is the rug is this: The chlorine gas comes in the form of fine particles of oxygen and moisture from the air by which moisture acid is formed. This eats away the vital of the rug. Sooner or later the wool and cotton in the rug become brittle and thus weaken the warp and destroy the weft.

When this deterioration is complete the pile of the rug may be swept away by the ordinary process of sweeping, and the warp, which is the foundation of the rug, becomes a mere skeleton of holes here and there and soon the rug is worthless.

It not seldom happens that a Persian rug is too stained in some bright red, perhaps red, and is not salable. The unscrupulous dealer will subject the rug to a series of washings in chemically prepared water. In this way he turns out a rug possessing a soft antique sheen that is highly coveted and sells at a ready purchaser at an advanced price.

Victoria Falls Bridge.

From the London Evening Standard.

Owing to the spray which descends upon the Victoria Falls Bridge during the wet season the question of maintenance is of paramount importance, and it is an important feature of the design that every portion of the steelwork is accessible to the painter's brush. The painting of the bridge is very much facilitated by natives. This is particularly satisfactory as prior to the advent of the railway there was not a native living within sixty miles of the falls owing to the fact that the natives of the locality, but now this has been overcome the proper preservation of the structure is assured.

Cry for Effective Neutrality.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Cannot the American people produce anything that will stick? Is the failure to produce an honest attack on the neutrality law a sign of our general changeableness and fickleness? I have gone out five times to-day for different kinds of maulage of the lemon colored variety and there is more stick in a two cent stamp than in the five cent ones. BROOKLYN, November 8.

The Lover's Conditions.

"I would not be beloved," he cried.
"For grace with supple strength allied:
That love I could not, would not have."
Remarked his friend, "You'll have no need!"
"Riches of brain and mental here,
On things like these I set no store."
Such a love I'd had no others, said:
"Nor get the chance," remarked his friend.
"I'd be beloved for charms which she
Alone in all the world would prize."
"Well," said his friend, "you needn't try.
That's just the kind of love you'll get!"
La TROUPE HARMONIC.

TOO MANY IMMIGRANTS?

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.—In the first ten months of 1907 1,193,784 immigrants came to the United States and \$49,955 left it. The gain in population was therefore 1,143,829. In the corresponding term this year there were 830,455 arrivals and 582,106 departures, a loss of 251,651 in the population. News of improving industrial conditions here has reached Europe and already arrivals are more numerous. There is also, because of more work, a decrease in the number of emigrants. From the beginning of 1908 until the end of August departures exceeded arrivals by an average of more than 30,000 a month. September marked the turn of the tide. Departures exceeded arrivals by the only other side, with arrivals exceeding departures by 8,571.

There is an element of danger in the immediate future. Our industrial situation has already shown decided improvement and there is no room whatever for doubt of greater and more rapid improvement during the coming months. In exuberant tales, which are really intended only for domestic purposes, the press of the country is reporting our industrial rehabilitation. We hear of the starting of idle mills, of full time in mills that have been working on short time and of opportunity for hundreds of thousands of wage earners. All that is a signal for which a large army of people in Europe is waiting. This army consists of three groups, namely, those who planned to come this year but were compelled to change their plans; those who have planned to come next year and those who returned this year intending to come back as soon as times mended. It is impossible to say how large that army is, but it is not unreasonable to set its number in excess of 2,000,000.

It is almost impossible for all to come during the next twelve months, but it is quite probable that the flood will come more rapidly than is warranted by industrial conditions. The many stories of re-viving industry, stories told for American comfort and encouragement, are carried across the sea, where they are interpreted to hundreds of thousands to come over and share in the new activity. It will be best for them and for us if the flood can be in some way fairly adjusted to the existing need for a larger number of workers. If the crowd is too big, as it will be a few months hence, there may be a difficulty in finding room for it.

THE VANDYKE BYRON.

A Customs House Inspector on the Deceitfulness of Travelers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The customs inspector who held up a portrait of Lord Byron as a child, referred to in Saturday's SUN, under the mistaken impression that it was a Vandyke, was simply following instructions to watch out for certain valuable paintings recently stolen abroad. The Treasury Department employs an expert to pass on technical matters of this sort, and even then does not pay him a salary commensurate with the work. How many persons of ordinary intelligence are familiar with the epochs of the great masters of the past?

As to his being "the basic duty" of a customs inspector to assume that every American citizen returning from abroad is a malefactor in spirit if not in fact it might be instructive for anybody who thinks so to examine the piles of passengers' baggage declarations at the customs house and note the number of passengers who had consented to pay duties after having taken oath they had nothing dutiable.

Why not criticize those "higher up," who make the rules under which passengers' baggage is examined? INSPECTOR.

NEW YORK, November 9.

Arizona.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Arizona does not forget her friends, and we remember you as one of the most valuable friends fought in our cause and helped us to escape from the joint Statehood party of the "square deal" prescribed for us at Washington. We hope you will fight with us in the defense of the near future as you did in the defense of the recent past.

You will have noted, I hope, that Mr. Cameron, the Republican candidate for Delegate in Congress, carried the Territory on Tuesday by a substantial plurality. He was running against Marcus A. Smith, who has been our delegate for many years, and to reflect whom until kingdom come had seemed to be almost a religion with a majority of the voters. "Statehood" was the issue in our campaign. Both national party platforms contained declarations of joint Statehood for Arizona and New Mexico singly.

It was contended by our side that Mr. Cameron could more likely succeed as our agent, without experience but appealing to a Republican Administration, than could Mr. Smith, whose election would indicate that Arizona is Democratic. The issue was clear and Mr. Cameron's majority is 1,000, possibly more. We shall apply at once for admission to the Union, and we ask our friends to stand ready to help us in the event of a successful result.

THOMAS H. SHEPPARD.

PRENIX, ARIZ., November 8.

Word of the Law.

From the London Globe.

Mr. Justice Eve had last Saturday to interpret the testamentary will of a certain German man bequeathed to his son, my tin dispatch box, present at the Wilts and Dorset Bank. The box contained securities of considerable value, and one of the questions which the learned Judge had to decide was whether the bequest of the box included the contents. His lordship felt bound to adhere to the plain words of the will and regretfully decided that only the box passed and not the things contained in it.

\$1,000 for Gopher Skins.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Ever since the late Chicago county board adopted a resolution authorizing the various towns in the county to pay a bounty on gophers, according to reports sent in to the County Clerk the various towns during the last summer paid out \$7,000 in gopher bounties, and these will have to be reimbursed by the county. As the city of Evanston has had to pay out \$5,000 of the \$7,000, the city supervisors have already started a campaign to repeal the measure.

A History of the Irish Brigade.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Allow me to correct an error in my letter published in today's SUN. I am made to refer to "Gallagher's History of the Irish Brigade" when it should be "O'Callaghan's History of the Irish Brigade." As the work of John Cornelius O'Callaghan gives complete information on the subject under discussion some of your readers may wish to refer to it.

The Ballad of Free.

From the Denver Republican.